

Then the strange man turned to Aladdin, and said, "What do you work at, my lad?"

17. The boy was ashamed and hung down his head, but his mother answered for him; "I am sorry to say Aladdin is a very idle youth, and does not work as he ought to do. His father tried to teach him his trade, but the boy would not learn.

18. "Since his father's death, though I have begged him to be a good boy, and try to earn some money, he only idles his time in the streets with bad companions. I tell him I shall turn him out of doors if he does not do better," and here the poor mother wept again, for Aladdin was a great trouble to her.

19. "This is not good news, my boy," said the strange man, "and you must begin to work for your living. If you do not like to work with your hands, I will take a shop for you, and will put in it all kinds of fine stuffs and linens for you to sell. With the money you get, you can buy fresh stuffs for your shop, and live in an honest way."

20. This plan pleased Aladdin, so he told his uncle that he should like to keep a shop.